

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/815,386

Applicant(s)

STEIGER ET AL.

Examiner

Dung (Michael) T. Nguyen

Art Unit

2828

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/20/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36 and 103-126.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No./Mail Date <u>9/15/05</u> |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>08/04/05</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-36 and 103-126) in the reply filed on 07/20/05 is acknowledged. Additionally, as indicated in the reply, claims 37-102 and 127-138 of Group II are canceled without prejudice.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Matthew Hillman on 09/15/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claims 1 and 103, line 3: changed 'layer' to – laser --.
- Claims 13 and 25, line 4: changed 'layer' to – laser --.
- Claims 111 and 119, line 5: changed 'layer' to – laser --.
- Claims 5-8, 17-20, and 29-32, line 3: deleted 'and' and replaced with – at --.
- Claims 9-12, 21-24, 33-36, 107-110, 115-118, and 123-126, line 3: deleted 'to' after "directing" and replaced with – an --.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-36 and 103-126 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 13, 25, 103, 111, and 119 have been allowed over the Ness (6549551), O'Meara (5126876), and Telle (4599726) prior art because they fail to teach, taken singly or combined, the limitations of at least two power amplification gas discharge laser systems receiving laser output light pulses from the master oscillator gas discharge laser system and each of the at least two power amplification gas discharge laser system amplifying some of the received laser output light pulses at a pulse repetition that is a fraction of the very high pulse repetition rate equal to one over the number of the at least two power amplification gas discharge laser systems to form an amplified output laser light pulse beam at the very high pulse repetition rate. Ness disclose in Fig. 13 a gas discharge laser system comprising a master oscillator 206 and only one power amplification laser system 216, Telle teaches in Fig. 1 a gas discharge laser system comprising a master oscillator 10 and only one power amplification laser system 18, and O'Meara shows in Fig. 5 a master oscillator 90 and two power amplification laser systems 102 and 102' but fails to disclose the limitation of each of the at least two power amplification gas discharge laser system amplifying some of the received laser output light pulses at a pulse repetition that is a fraction of the very high pulse repetition rate equal to one over the number of the at least two power amplification gas discharge laser systems to form an amplified output laser light pulse beam at the very high pulse repetition rate.

Claims 2-12, 14-24, 26-36, 103-110, 112-118, and 120-126 have been found allowable due to their dependency on the above allowed claims.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

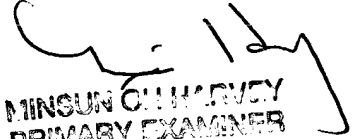
Communication Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung (Michael) T Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1949. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 19:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Min Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-1835. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 306-5511 for regular communications and (703) 306-5511 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-3329.

Nguyen (Michael) Dung


MINSUN O. HARVEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER